

Robert Stoldal has achieved well-deserved legendary stature over his 41-year career at Las Vegas' CBS affiliate, KLAS-TV, Channel 8. Bob's insistence on the highest journalistic standards of accuracy, thoroughness, fairness, and aggressiveness established a clear benchmark of professional values which has been followed by hundreds of journalists, videographers, producers, and editors. Uniformly, those who have worked for Bob credit him with improving their professionalism through his guidance and the example he sets.

Bob is a good friend of mine, and he has my highest respect as a newsman and as a preeminent leader of the city we both love so much, Las Vegas. Bob has led the charge for community causes too numerous to mention, even as he has led one of America's top local newscasts for decades.

Bob and his corps of news professionals at Channel 8 and sister station, Las Vegas NEWS ONE, consistently earn the highest honors awarded by the national broadcast news industry. At the same time, Bob Stoldal worked successfully for television cameras to gain access to courtrooms; battled over the years to preserve Nevada's historical legacy; gained recognition across the Silver State as an authority on Nevada history; and, devoted himself to the growth of his alma mater, UNLV.

Bob Stoldal has the trait common to all great journalists—courage—courage to stand up to organized crime and political corruption, courage to accept the risk of going into a highly dangerous jailhouse stand-off and negotiate a peaceful solution, and, the courage to take on the federal government over its use and abuse of Nevada as a nuclear proving ground, as just some examples of his fortitude.

Southern Nevada is indeed most fortunate that a person of Bob's unflagging energy, enthusiasm, creativity, and tenacity has set the pace for the area's newsgathering during the four decades that metro Las Vegas has led the nation in population growth.

Bob, I congratulate you on a tremendous career, of which I, and our fellow Las Vegans, are so proud. I know you will keep giving your all for our community in your purported retirement!

Best wishes to you, Kay, and your family as we look to the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. THOMAS H. ALLEN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2008

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, on June 23, 2008, I was unavoidably absent from the House.

If I had been present, I would have voted Yes on rollcall Vote No. 438, a motion by Mr. SARBANES of Maryland to suspend the rules and pass H. Res. 1242, a resolution honoring the life, musical accomplishments, and contributions of Louis Jordan on the 100th anniversary of his birth.

I would have voted Yes on rollcall Vote No. #439, a motion by Mr. SARBANES of Maryland

to suspend the rules and pass H. Con. Res. 372, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Black Music Month and to honor the outstanding contributions that African American singers and musicians have made to the United States.

Finally, I would have voted Yes on rollcall Vote No. 440, a motion by Mr. SARBANES of Maryland to suspend the rules and pass H. Res. 1051, a resolution congratulating James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, for 100 years of service and leadership to the United States.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2008

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, on the legislative day of Monday, June 23, 2008, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to cast a vote on a number of rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted: rollcall 438—"aye"; rollcall 439—"aye"; and rollcall 440—"aye".

TRIBUTE TO SAINT GERARD PARISH

HON. TIMOTHY WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2008

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Saint Gerard Parish in Lansing, Michigan on the celebration of its fiftieth anniversary. It is with great admiration and pride that I congratulate St. Gerard on behalf of all of those in south-central Michigan who have benefited from its steadfast commitment to faith, education, outreach and prayer.

St. Gerard Parish, named after St. Gerard Majella, Patron of Mothers, was established in June of 1958. Lacking a permanent meeting place, its first Sunday services were held in the gymnasium of Bretton Woods School. Each parishioner was asked to give an hour's salary a week to build a temporary church and less than a year later, in April of 1959, ground was broken. The first liturgy in the packed 800-seat church occurred during Christmas Midnight Mass in 1959, and in the fall of 1960, Saint Gerard School opened its doors for its first class.

In October of 1974, a fund drive was announced for a permanent church building. Within three short months, the \$350,000 goal was surpassed by \$180,000. Bishop James S. Sullivan dedicated the present church on June 15, 1975. St. Gerard Parish continues to grow, requiring an expansion of its facilities beginning in 2000. Mirroring the impressive growth-rate of the church, St. Gerard School is now filled to capacity with 350 students enrolled.

St. Gerard Parish stands out for its deep involvement in the Lansing community, and it constantly seeks out ways to serve those in need. The church sponsors countless outreach programs, including Senior Citizen

potlucks and Bingo nights, Couple to Couple League and the Lansing Regional Council of Catholic Women. St. Gerard has also been extremely instrumental in reaching out to the sick and homebound through its Befriender Ministry and Respite Care. It is impossible to measure the enormous impact these ministries have had on lives throughout Lansing. They merely reflect the loving hearts of the St. Gerard community and testify to the unwavering faith that has flourished at St. Gerard for the past fifty years.

Madam Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Saint Gerard Parish on the celebration of its fiftieth anniversary since first coming together to follow the Lord Jesus. May others know of my high regard for the St. Gerard community's inspiring faith and eagerness to serve, as well as my best wishes for Saint Gerard Parish in the future.

POSITIVE CONTRIBUTIONS OF IMMIGRANTS

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2008

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, the positive contributions of the immigrant labor force to our society are too often unnoticed.

Hardworking families contribute daily and pay their share into the American system.

Hardworking mothers sometimes work three jobs, give up weekends, and take overtime and night shifts to feed and clothe their children.

Hardworking fathers wake up at 4 a.m. to go to work, earn below minimum wages, and manage to provide for their families.

Immigrants contribute in taxes from their paychecks, just like the next person.

In fact, the IRS reported that between 1996–2003, immigrants contributed \$50 billion in Federal taxes.

Social Security reported that "other than legal immigrants," will contribute 15 percent of the system's projected long term deficit.

We cannot afford to ignore the figures and more importantly, we cannot afford to ignore the positive contributions of immigrants in America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2008

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I was unable to be present in the Capitol on Monday, June 23, 2008, and was unable to cast votes on the House floor that evening.

However, had I been present I would have voted "yea" on H. Res. 1242, Honoring the life, musical accomplishments, and contributions of Louis Jordan on the 100th anniversary of his birth; "yea" on H. Con. Res. 372, Supporting the goals and ideals of Black Music